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Secretary Haskins, of the Massachusetts Peace Society, recently visited Hampshire County, where he addressed a number of meetings of the Grange.

The Society has just published a new pamphlet entitled "Smith and Jones." This is an attempt to present the constructive peace program in such a way as to be readily understood by those previously unfamiliar with the principles of the peace movement.

WISCONSIN PEACE SOCIETY.

The Society has offered two sets of prizes, entitled the John Campbell Memorial Prizes, to students of the University of Wisconsin and the State normal schools of Wisconsin. In each case two prizes are offered, of fifty and twenty-five dollars respectively, the contestants to submit essays on any of the following subjects: "A Program for the Proposed League to Enforce Peace," "The Military Policy of the United States in Relation to its Foreign Policy," "International Responsibility in Relation to the Economic and Administrative Development of Backward Countries," and "The Development of International Law and its Relation to Peace." The contest closes May 1. The Society is seeking to offer similar prizes to the students of the various colleges of the State and to the high schools. In this work contributions are needed and are earnestly solicited by the secretary, Arnold B. Hall, 408 North Henry street, Madison, Wis.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

The Sixth National Conference of the Society was held December 8-9 at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C. The subject of the Conference was the Supreme Court of the United States: its functions and procedures. "This topic was chosen," the announcement explains, "because there have been so many allusions to the Supreme Court as a model for an International Court of Justice, the establishment of which it is the main object of this Society to promote." The treatments of the various sub-divisions of the main topic, as delivered by the distinguished speakers present, will subsequently, as in the case of former conferences, be published by the Society in book form. Among the speakers during the two days of the Conference were Theodore Marburg, Alpheus Snow, Jackson H. Ralston, James Brown Scott, William Howard Taft, Hon. James L. Slayden, John Hays Hammond, William I. Hull, and William Renwick Riddell.

AMERICAN NEUTRAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

In addition to the activities of the California branch of this eight-months-old organization for the early end of the war, which has been spreading petitions broadcast and securing a large number of signatures, a New York branch has recently been formed. This extension was effected through the agency of Jacob H. Schiff, Oswald Garrison Villard, and Hamilton Holt at a meeting over which Dr. David Starr Jordan presided. Miss Emily Balch, formerly of the Stockholm Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation, cooperating with Miss Rebecca Shelly, of Detroit, is now in charge of the headquarters of the organization, at present located at 70 Fifth avenue, New York City. The purposes of the Conference Committee are stated in the latest form of petition that is being circulated in the West, as follows:

We, the undersigned citizens of the United States of America, declare our conviction that adequate guarantees against future wars—the avowed aim of both belligerents—can be secured by

1. Repudiation of military conquest as a means of territorial expansion.

2. Recognition of the right of each people to determine its own social, political, and economic development.

3. World organization for the development of international cooperation and the settlement of international disputes.

We believe that various public statements by leading spokesmen of the opposing belligerents indicate that discussion based on these principles may be substituted for armed conflict.

We recognize, however, that the nature of the conflict makes difficult the initiation of direct negotiations by the belligerents themselves.

We, therefore, earnestly urge our government, acting alone or in cooperation with other neutral powers:

1. To invite the belligerents to state the basis upon which they would be willing to begin peace negotiations.

2. To mediate by constructive peace proposals which shall safeguard the just claims of the belligerents and the common interests of all nations.

JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another is known in law as an "issue." Taking up the two sides respectively is called "joining the issue." A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to "join the issue." With this aim in view this department was started. It is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of "joining the issue." Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1916.

SIR: Permit me to express my gratification in receiving both the approval and the criticism contained in your editorial notice of an effort now being made to secure a constitutional amendment, permitting our government to negotiate an effective agreement for the maintenance of international peace.

The draft made by me and accepted by Senator Shafroth contains a provision authorizing engagements binding our government "to assist in supplying funds for the support of said tribunal or tribunals and of *any civil and military establishment*, to be controlled by an international authority, that may be required by the treaty or treaties, etc."

You propose to substitute for the italicized words the following: "Any organs found necessary for the effective establishment of such tribunal or tribunals."

At first glance your suggestion seems to me a good one. Your omnibus word, "organs," will carry the military sanction (which I think necessary), if eventually such sanction should be adopted. At the same time it does not *invite* or *imply* the central soldier, and thus the spirit of William Ladd is not tormented from his grave.

When you "got behind" the naval bill peace proviso during the last session of Congress, we were able again,

through your helpful suggestion, to frame language which did not exclude our respective views where they differed and yet included them where they agree. We succeeded in obtaining the good-will of enough members to carry our point. You will remember that the sympathetic reception given by the House Committee to the proviso in question led to the further proviso, moved by Mr. Hensley, authorizing the calling of an international conference.

In respect to the general subject, we march together toward an international authority taking cognizance of and rendering final decrees concerning *all* disputes threatening international war. We object to the reservation of points of honor. I think we are also agreed that *independent competitive national* armaments cannot be made into an international police force by the easy process of calling them so. You do not believe that either this fallacious sanction of arms, of any true centralized force-sanction, should be put behind the decrees of the court. I believe that we will fare toward a forceless sanction through the tranquility to be first obtained by a union of supernational judgment and supernational force. Concerning the proposed amendment, I send a circular just now being distributed. It may interest you. I yearn for criticism. I remain,

Respectfully yours, OSCAR T. CROSBY.

ATLANTA, GA., November 28, 1916.

SIR: I see in the November ADVOCATE OF PEACE an excellent article by S. R. Stone, of this city, relative to the European war. I am in hearty accord with most that he says. He is surely right that war preparedness invites war sooner or later. Any nation or individual who indulges in gun play must pay the penalty of being feared. But he closes his letter with an assertion in which we think he errs, namely, "Upon those who could and should have established a basis for peace largely rests the responsibility for this horror of horrors."

The only true basis for universal and permanent peace must be founded on justice. In 1881 Henry George, the prophet of San Francisco, said: "Private property in land blocks the way of advancing civilization. The two cannot long coexist. Either private property in land must be abolished or, as has happened again and again in the history of the world civilization, must again turn back in anarchy and bloodshed. Even now I believe the inevitable struggle has begun. It is not conservatism which would ignore such a tremendous fact. It is the blindness which would invite destruction. He that is truly conservative let him look the facts in the face; let him speak frankly and dispassionately. *This is the duty of the hour.* For when a great social question presses for settlement, it is only for a little while that the voice of reason can be heard. The masses of men hardly think at any time. It is difficult, even in sober moments, to get them to reason calmly. But when passion is roused, then they are like a herd of stampeded bulls. I do not fear that *present social adjustments can continue.* What I fear is that the dams may hold till the flood rises to fury."

Single taxers who might, could, would, and should have averted this "horror of horrors" have been active with tongue and pen, often forgetting self and self-interests, since the time of Henry George. This doctrine of peace on earth and good-will to men now belts the globe. In every land the sun shines on, his gospel is being

preached. This conflagration which threatens the destruction of the world owes its origin to the spoiled darlings of a decaying civilization, who care not who sink so they swim, as well as to the vultures of humanity who feed and fatten on war and war preparedness.

JOSIE THORPE PRICE.

BALTIMORE, MD., December 4, 1916.

SIR: The Maryland League for National Defense, in its circularization in favor of compulsory military training, points to the fact that but one out of five who apply at the recruiting offices for enlistment in the United States Army are able to pass the necessary and standard examination which a soldier must qualify in. He most disingenuously quotes this as proving the fact of the physical degeneracy of the American youth. This is, of course, an utterly unwarranted deduction, since the quality of the young men of America, as seen in colleges and in Y. M. C. A.'s and other places where the earnest and purposive youth frequent, is not only satisfactory, but shows really a higher standard than that of their own fathers. The real explanation of this apparent sub-standard quality of the applicants is that the Army today offers no attractions for the self-respecting and resourceful young man, but is for the most part the refuge of the wastrel, prodigal, and broken down of dissipation. This interesting fact shows two things: That before the Army can make any appeal to the interest of the young man who is seeking a career, it must be modified largely to conform to those ideals which wake ambition in the self-respecting youth. There is one other interesting inference, which is: If humanity be permitted to escape the obsession and perversion of those who are interested by training or by atavistic instincts in the perpetuation of the military myth, the only army civilization could raise would be an army of derelicts. It is a significant fact that the mind of the usual army man has in it pre-occupation for, or responsibility in, the notions or the common-places of the militaristic sociologists.

Very truly yours, OSCAR WOODWARD ZEIGLER.

CHICAGO, ILL., December 11, 1916.

SIR: In going through the articles in the December ADVOCATE OF PEACE, particularly that of Gilbert Bowles, I gather that you are not aware of a fund started by what is called the "General Conference" of the Society of Friends for precisely the same purpose, namely, to assist Mr. Bowles in the peace movement in Japan.

I was asked to preside at a meeting, held in 1914, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., when the fund was started, and was later asked to act as treasurer. Two of those most active in collecting funds have been Miss Rachel Knight, Somerton, Pa., and E. Carlton McDowell, Carnegie Station, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N. Y. The fund has been pushed right along in the columns of *Friends' Intelligencer*, 140 N. 15th street, Philadelphia.

I have in my hands now some \$270, and am writing to suggest that we are ready at any time to cooperate with you in correlating these different groups so that the work may go forward.

Yours sincerely, THOMAS A. JENKINS.

[We are glad to learn of this good news from Professor Jenkins, and to assure him and our other interested readers that we are glad to co-operate in any way so long as the necessary yearly contribution of \$600 is raised.—THE EDITORS.]